

## **Message from the Chief**

**Chief's Memo – June 19, 2006**

### ***CDF Provides International Support***

Yesterday, CDF sent two strike teams into Baja California, Mexico to assist with a wildland fire in a Mexican National Forest (San Pedro Martir). The response and resources were organized and sent out of the San Diego Unit (MVU). Since CDF/CDCR inmate hand crews cannot be sent into Mexico, for obvious reasons, CDF firefighters staffed the two strike teams to respond to the specific request for resources.



The request for assistance came from the State of Baja California, Mexico, Governor Lic. Eugenio Elourduy Walter. Governor Schwarzenegger approved our response.

The Baja California peninsula is divided into the two states of Baja California and Baja California Sur - north and south. It includes the resort areas of Cabo San Lucas, Ensenada, La Paz, Loreto, Rosarito, San Felipe, San Jose Del Cabo, and Buena Vista - to name a few of the larger ones. It also boasts of major, modern cities such as Tijuana and Mexicali.

This unique region is one of the most interesting and diverse geographical areas of the world and is still very much a frontier. The peninsula is home to some of the earth's most beautiful deserts, along with semi-tropical and mountainous regions, pine forests, and hundreds of miles of untouched beaches and coastline.

The amount of coordination and communication required to accomplish the sending of resources across the international border was significant. You can all be proud, as I am, of the expertise and professionalism exhibited by the staff this department. CDF can carry out a mission of this type like no other organization. Coordination with CDF Firefighters, OES, CDCR, USFS, US State Department, and the Mexican state and federal government were paramount.

The USFS has also put together four hand crews to respond and are awaiting federal approval. Request for assistance from the USFS from outside the country have to get approval in Washington, D.C.



A CDF advance team was sent to size-up and communicate back to CDF command staff. The strike teams left for Mexico at 1930hrs on Sunday. They spent the night in Ensenada, Mexico and are within 1 hour of the fire as of 1300hrs on Monday (6-19-2006).



We recently spoke with the PIO in San Diego (Roxanne Provasnik). She stated that everyone's spirits were high. A lot of the newer/younger firefighters were

really pumped up about going. The more "seasoned" folks were a little more reserved (in a good way) - like this is just another one of the things that CDF steps up to handle.

We will keep you informed as we break new ground for CDF.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grijalva', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ruben Grijalva, Chief  
Director / State Fire Marshal (acting)

### **Cooperative Fire**

On June 8, 2006, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection unanimously approved the adoption of amendments to the California Code of Regulations, Title 14 regarding the Amador Plan Program. The adopted amendments were necessary to update regulations as a result of Board and CDF policy changes as well as legislative changes to the Public Resources Code resulting from Senate Bill 1356 authored in 2004. The adopted language represents a significant effort over the last year, involving numerous stakeholders, to develop Amador regulations that are mutually beneficial to CDF and our local government partners.

I would like to recognize and thank the Amador working group and CDF Fire Fighters for all of their commitment and dedication to this project. The following individuals participated as part of the Amador working group: Steve Dunlap, Chris Zimny, Jim Troehler, Chuck Abshear, Jody Gossner, Alan Black, Tony Richardson and Bob Wirtz.

### **Communications**

The new CDF Information/Education Fire Captain, Jesse Estrada, has been doing a number of media interviews concerning the opening of fire season.

Communications Office staff have arranged for print and video photography personnel who will capture a variety of CDF programs, major fires, and activities throughout this fire season for use in upcoming projects.

The Communications Office distributed 105,000 additional one-page 100 foot defensible space handouts to the CDF Units the week of June 4 and is in the process of producing additional copies of the 100' brochure for field use.